

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 8802-5566-2000

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
INAUGURATION CEREMONY
U.S. TRADE SHOW
SONARGAON HOTEL, DHAKA
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

The Honorable Minister of Commerce and long-time friend Tofail Ahmed

The President of the American Chamber of Commerce Aftab-ul-Islam

AmCham Executive Director A. Gafur

... and all of you who are here this morning because you believe that expanding trade and investment between Bangladesh and America is to the benefit of the people of both countries

Asalaam 'mlaikum, nameskar and good morning

I remember the cover on Time magazine.

It was over 50 years ago ... in the early 1960's.

That Time cover screamed, "The British Invasion."

The British Invasion ... those of you of a certain age will remember the flood of wonderful British rock music that invaded America's shores at that time ... the Beatles, The WHO, the Monkeys, the Rolling Stones, Dave Clark 5, and so many others.

It was a most welcomed invasion.

I think America should prepare for another friendly invasion.

I can imagine a time ten or fifteen years from now when the cover of Time magazine will again feature a screaming headline telling of a new invasion of America. This time it will be "The Great Bangladesh Invasion."

I speak not of some fictional, wishful future. I speak of a possibility, a real possibility that Bangladesh, the world's eighth largest nation, could within a decade or two become a huge player in the global economy.

I imagine the day when a shopper in America ... whether shopping at the most expensive clothing stores or at those selling lower-cost clothes ... will find him or herself flipping through racks and racks of clothes that are made in Bangladesh ... made with great pride in Bangladesh ... Brand Bangladesh would be a treasured brand, a premium brand, a much sought brand, the best brand in the world ... Bangladesh, the largest exporter of apparel to America.

That clothing shopper of tomorrow will be dazzled by the array of richly beautiful "Made in Bangladesh" silk products available.

... and that shopper will go to the shoe department and buy "Made in Bangladesh" top quality shoes and belts and purses and wallets and other exquisite leather products.

I imagine the day, as this aging body of mine becomes ever more dependent on medication to keep functioning, when I will totter to the local pharmacy to buy my medicine ... and the label will say "Made with Pride in Bangladesh. Bangladesh at that time would be a huge supplier of highest quality generic pharmaceuticals to America's aging population, including me.

I imagine the day when software "Made in Bangladesh" by highly skilled computer programmers will drive huge swaths of the American economy ... and semi-conductors using the latest technologies are "Made in Bangladesh."

I imagine the day when "Made in Bangladesh" freighters ply America's Great Lakes ... the day when Americans sit down to eat the world's finest prawn ... the tiger prawn ... produced with pride in Bangladesh ... the day when creative jute products are used in construction, automobile production, and in so many other ways to replace plastics and over-reliance on hydro-carbons.

These imaginings of today can be the realities of tomorrow.

These imaginings of today won't become the realities of tomorrow by magic ... these imaginings become reality through hard work, dynamic leadership and tough policy decisions by the government, and investment ... massive investment ... to grow this economy into a global power.

... and that is where American business comes in ... that is where the 23rd annual US Trade Show comes in.

This trade show showcases American companies and brands that already contribute so much to building Bangladesh's economy and are poised to do much more.

Chevron is a massive supplier of natural gas to this surging economy. ConocoPhillips seeks to use its latest technologies to help Bangladesh explore for more gas. GE helps provide low-cost power using advance GE turbine technology and also offers to bring high quality medical

devices and equipment to Bangladesh. Caterpillar offers construction equipment, engines, and generators that help drive the economy. Boeing supplies the latest aircraft, running on GE engines, to Biman to help connect Bangladesh to the world.

American companies help build Bangladesh in so many other ways in the banking, insurance, agricultural, education, healthcare, information technology, consumer products and other sectors. I am particularly pleased to see Bangladeshi-Americans playing a driving role in unleashing Bangladesh's great, creative entrepreneurial energy.

American companies in Bangladesh are model corporate citizens. Through corporate social responsibility programs they contribute importantly to helping Bangladeshis achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

I believe American companies can play a leading role in helping Bangladesh address and resolve the challenges that constrain the nation's growth by helping Bangladesh bring highest quality education to the children, by improving and expanding the nation's roads, railroads and ports, by increasing the supply and distribution of electrical power and natural gas, and by investing American know-how, technology and resources in expanding the economic base of the country.

The government, of course, has a central role to play in creating conditions that will attract massive inflows of investment dollars and technology. Improved rule of law, reduced corruption, less red tape and diminished threat of political instability would do much to attract the flood of needed investment. Government also plays the leading role in ensuring that Bangladeshi enterprises, especially in the apparel industry, meet international standards for workplace safety, respect for workers' rights, and protection of the environment.

I thank the Commerce Minister for his tireless efforts to build an ever prosperous Bangladesh. I thank Aftab and Gafur for creating yet again another fine trade show. And most especially, I thank all those companies that are participating in this trade show, which celebrates your accomplishments and showcases the products and services that you can provide to build Bangladesh.

I believe you ... American companies great and small ... are key to helping Bangladesh become the Bangladesh of my imagination ... Bangladesh, Brand Bangladesh ... a most respected, most appreciated, most sought after brand in the world ... the best brand and among the biggest brands.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery*